

## Relationship UNC13A Single-Nucleotide Polymorphisms to Clinical Outcomes in NurOwn Phase 3 ALS Clinical Trial

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March 16, 2022  
MDA Clinical and Scientific Conference  
Nashville, TN

# Relationship UNC13A Single-Nucleotide Polymorphisms to Clinical Outcomes in NurOwn Phase 3 ALS Clinical Trial

- **124 of 189 participants (63 NurOwn; 61 placebo) were evaluated for 31 pre-specified ALS related genes and 4 SNPs**
- **8 of 124 (6.5%) participants in NurOwn ALS trial harbor seven different ALS gene mutations**
- **UNC13A rs12608932 SNP risk allele, which potentiates the deleterious effects of TDP-43, appear in 62% of the patients.**
- **BCT-002, NurOwn Phase 3 trial data suggest that NurOwn treatment may influence disease progression in ALS patients who possess this risk allele and provides a basis for further genetic characterization in clinical trials.**

# Pre-defined Focus of BCT-002 Genetic Substudy

31 ALS related genes/known mutations, 4 SNPs

124 participants (63 NurOwn, 61 Placebo) underwent mutational testing.

Gene/SNP (#, % with positive risk allele)				
ANG	CX3CR1	MAPT	SOD1 (1, 0.8%)	UNC13A gene
ANXA11	FUS (1, 0.8%)	OPTN (1, 0.8%)	SQSTM1	VAPB
ARHGEF28	GRN	PFN1	TARDBP (1, 0.8%)	VCP
C9orf72 (3, 2.4%)	HNRNPA1	PSEN1	TBK1 (1, 0.8%)	UNC13A (77, 62%)
CDH13	HNRNPA2B1	PSEN2 (1, 0.8%)	TMEM106B	CAMTA1 (59, 48%)
CHGB	KIF5A	SETX	TREM2	MOBP (112, 90%)
CHMP2B	KIFAP3	SLC11A2	UBQLN2	ZNF12B (53, 43%)

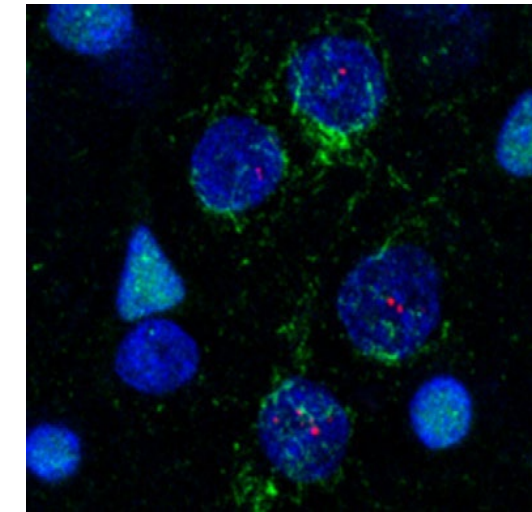
SNPs

Focus of presentation will be UNC13A

# A direct function link found between UNC13A SNP and loss of TDP-43 protein expression<sup>1</sup>

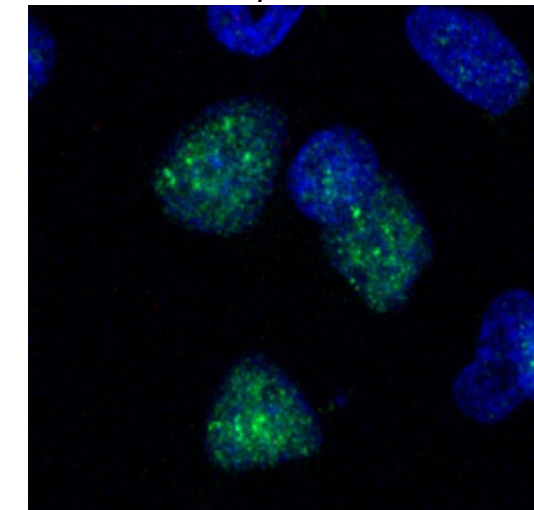
- **UNC13A is a member of family of pre-synaptic proteins which primes synaptic vesicles<sup>2,3</sup>**
- **The C allele of the rs12608932 SNP has been identified as a risk variant for both ALS and frontotemporal dementia (FTD)<sup>2</sup>.**
- **In 97% of ALS patients, TDP-43 gets trapped in the cytosol, where it forms deposits. As TDP-43 protein levels fall in the nucleus, splicing errors that it would normally prevent begin to magnify.**
- **TDP-43 depletion induces robust inclusion of a cryptic exon within UNC13A; neurons lacking nuclear TDP-43 make less of the protein**
- **In neurons from people who had ALS/FTD with TDP-43 deposits, mis-splicing was highest in cells carrying the UNC13A risk variants.**

FTD-MND



UNC13A  
cryptic exon  
TDP-43

Healthy control

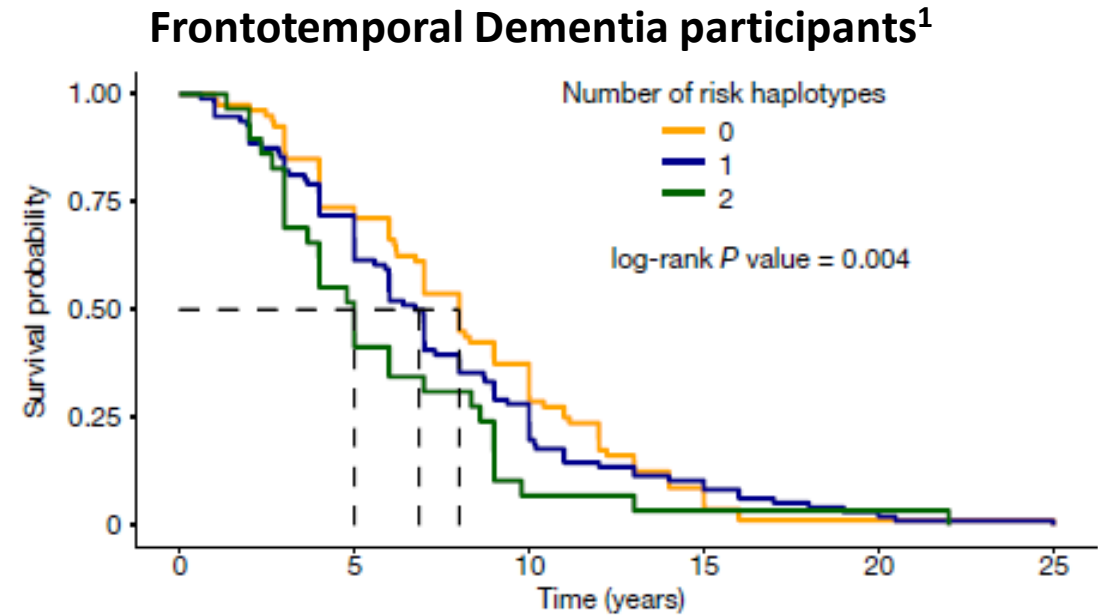
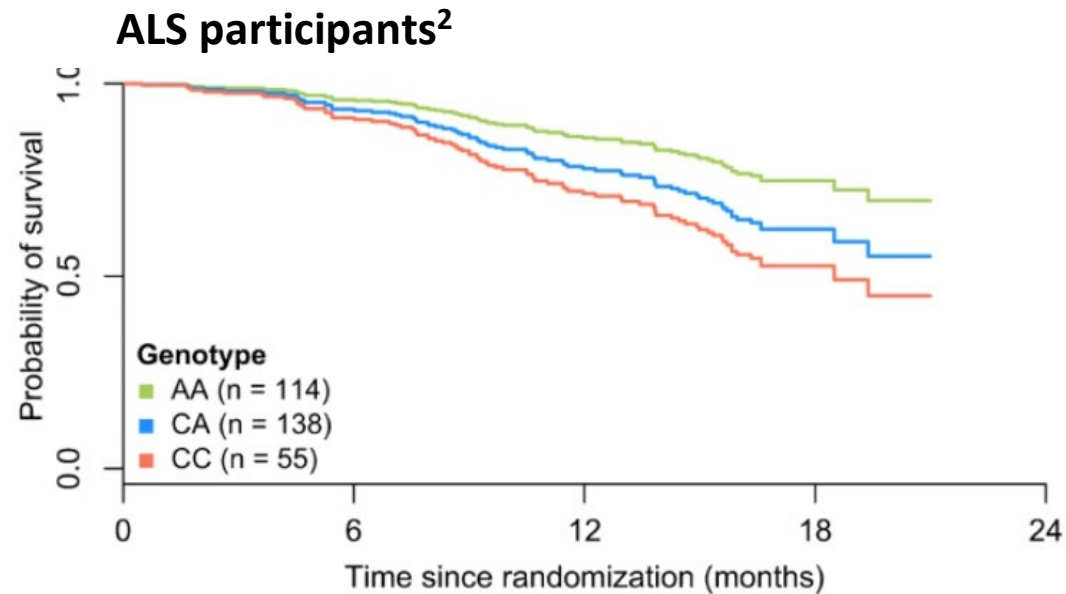


<sup>1</sup>Ma XR et al. Nature. 2022 Mar;603(7899):124-130, <sup>2</sup>Van Es, et al, Nat Genet. 2009 41(10):1083-7.

<sup>3</sup>Reddy-Alla, S, et al. Neuron, 2017

# ALS patients with C risk allele of UNC13A have shorter survival

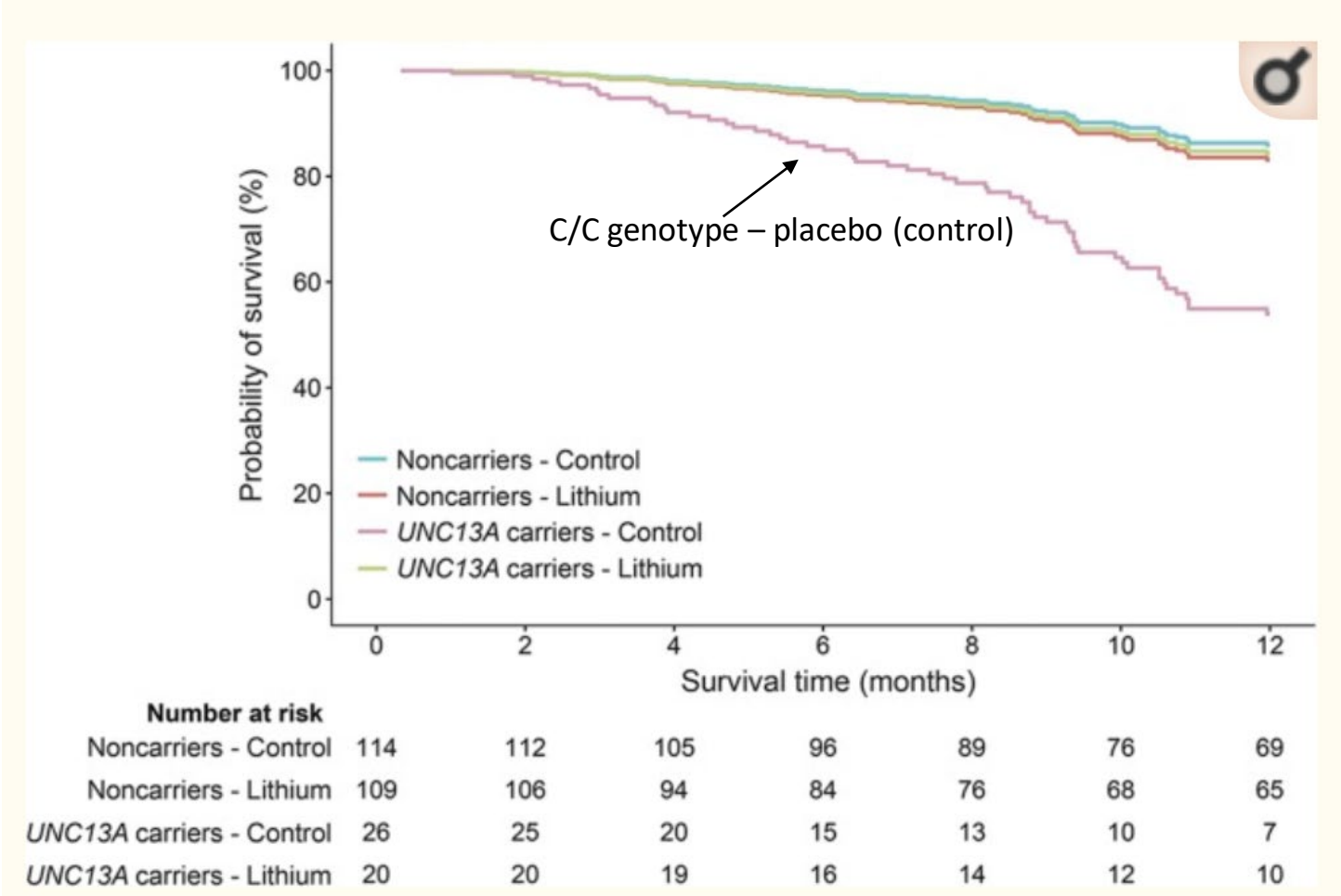
Data provides a direct functional link between UNC13A genetic variants and loss of TDP-43 Function and survival<sup>1</sup>



The C allele of the rs12608932 SNP has been identified as a risk locus for both ALS and frontotemporal dementia (FTD)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ma et. al., Nature Research (2022), <sup>2</sup>van Eijk et al., Pharmacogenomics J (2020)

# In a retrospective analysis, C/C genotype patients responded to lithium carbonate



**Cox proportional hazards model of 12-month survival and the interaction of lithium carbonate with UNC13A genotype**

UNC13A carrier status: there was a significant effect of lithium carbonate ( $p = 0.027$ ) and no effect in noncarriers.

Carrier = C/C genotype,  
 Non-Carrier = A/C or A/A  
 Control = placebo

# The Phase 3 NurOwn study was a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial.

## Designed to exclude slow progressors. Inclusion criteria specified:

- ALSFRS-R  $\geq 25$  at Screening Visit (Not at Baseline).
- Decline in ALSFRS-R total score of 3 or more points in the 12 weeks before randomization.

## Primary Endpoint

Proportion of participants with  $\geq 1.25$  point/month improvement in post-treatment vs pre-treatment slope in ALSFRS-R score at 28 weeks

## Secondary Endpoints

Safety

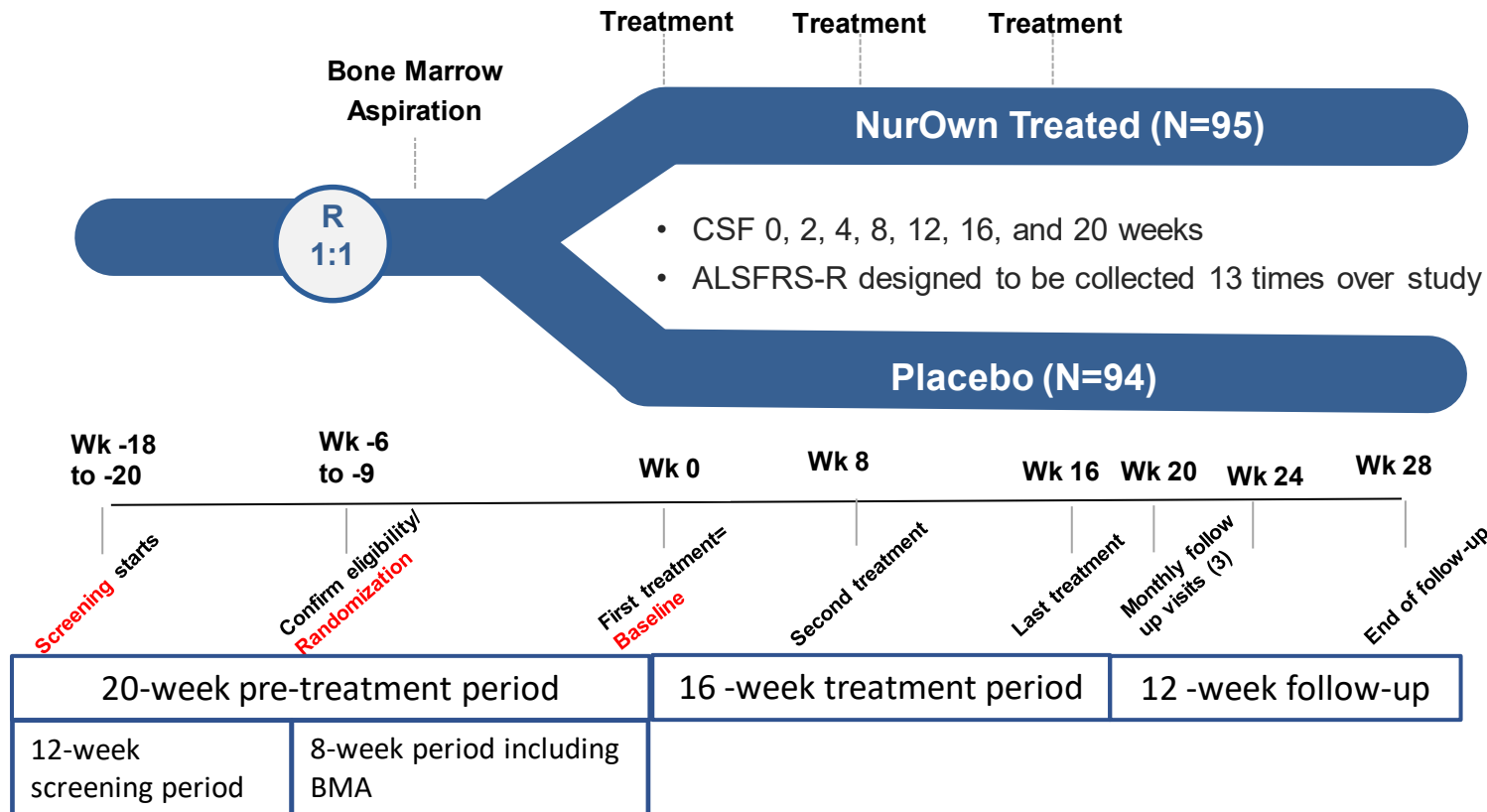
ALSFRS-R change from baseline

Percentage of participants with post-treatment slope improved  $\geq 100\%$

Combined Analysis of Function and Survival

Slow Vital Capacity

CSF/Blood biomarkers



# Distribution of UNC13A alleles match that of larger series

UNC13A Genotype	BCT-002 n (% of Genetic substudy)	ALS Population based Study Netherlands <sup>1</sup>
A/A	47 (37%)	854 (38.5%)
A/C	58 (47%)	988 (44.6%)
C/C	19 (15%)	374 (16.9%)
<b>Total UNC13A Genetic Substudy</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>2,816</b>
<b>UNC13A Genotype Missing</b>	65	0
<b>Total Study</b>	189	2,816

Hardy Weinberg, test of equilibrium:  $\chi^2=0.04$ ,  $p=0.84$



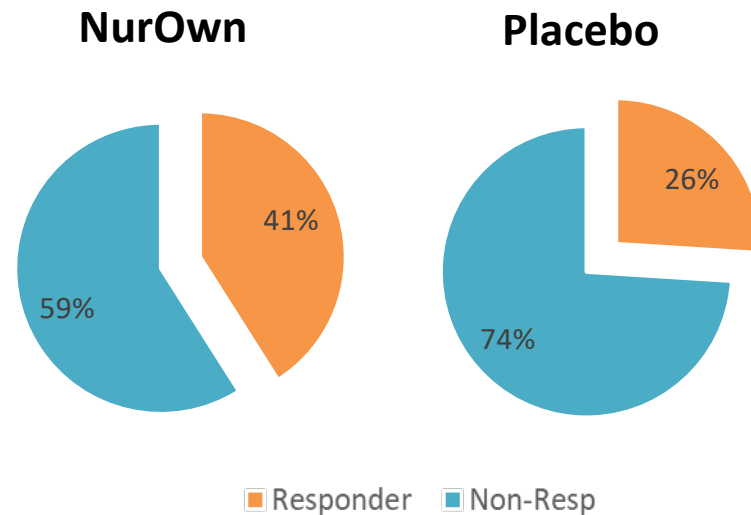
# Baseline Clinical Characteristics are generally balanced between Treatment groups

C/C group is a sparsely sample with more advanced ALS with NurOwn Participants

Clinical Characteristics at Baseline	BCT-002 NurOwn n=63			BCT-002 Placebo n=61		
	A/A n=31	A/C n=23	C/C n=9	A/A n=16	A/C n=35	C/C n=10
El Escorial Criteria for ALS, % Definite	58	39	67	50	31	10
SVC (% predicted), median	71	85	69	74	83	72
Bulbar Onset, %	10	17	44	19	11	50
ALSFRS-R, median	30	32	30	34	32	35
ALSFRS-R slope , median	-1.7	-1.6	-1.6	-1.2	-1.5	-1.4

# The Rate of Response is larger in this Genetic SubStudy

**Total participants: 189 (95 NurOwn, 94, Placebo), %Response: 33% NurOwn, 28% Placebo**  
**Genetic Substudy: 124 participants (63 NurOwn, 61 Placebo, all participants who consented)**



**Overall Response Rate from Genetic Substudy participants:**

41% NurOwn vs. 26% Placebo,  $p=0.215$

- **Generally, Genetic Substudy baseline characteristics by treatment resembled the full trial characteristics<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Cudkowicz et al, Muscle and Nerve, 2021

# NurOwn subgroup with the A/C genotype responded better to NurOwn treatment

Significantly more NurOwn response in A/C Genotype, Effect was not seen in the C/C genotype

## Total Genetic Substudy Population

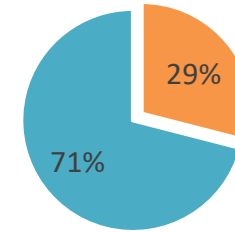
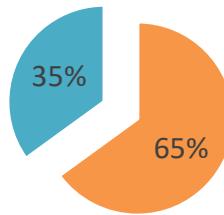
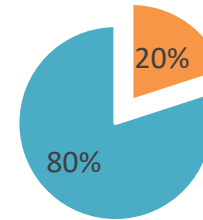
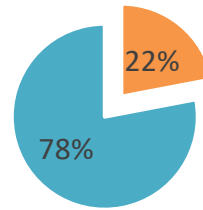
**Genotype C/C n= all**  
**NurOwn:** n=9 (14%)  
**Placebo:** n= 10 (17%)  
 15% of genetic sub-study

**Genotype A/C n= all**  
**NurOwn:** n=23 (37%)  
**Placebo:** n=35 (57%)  
 ~50% of the genetic sub-study

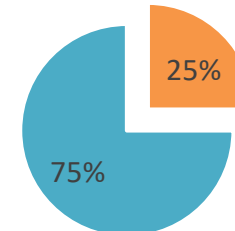
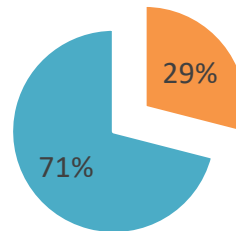
**Genotype A/A n= all**  
**NurOwn:** n=31 (49%)  
**Placebo:** n=16 (26%)  
 ~35% of the genetic sub-study

NurOwn

Placebo



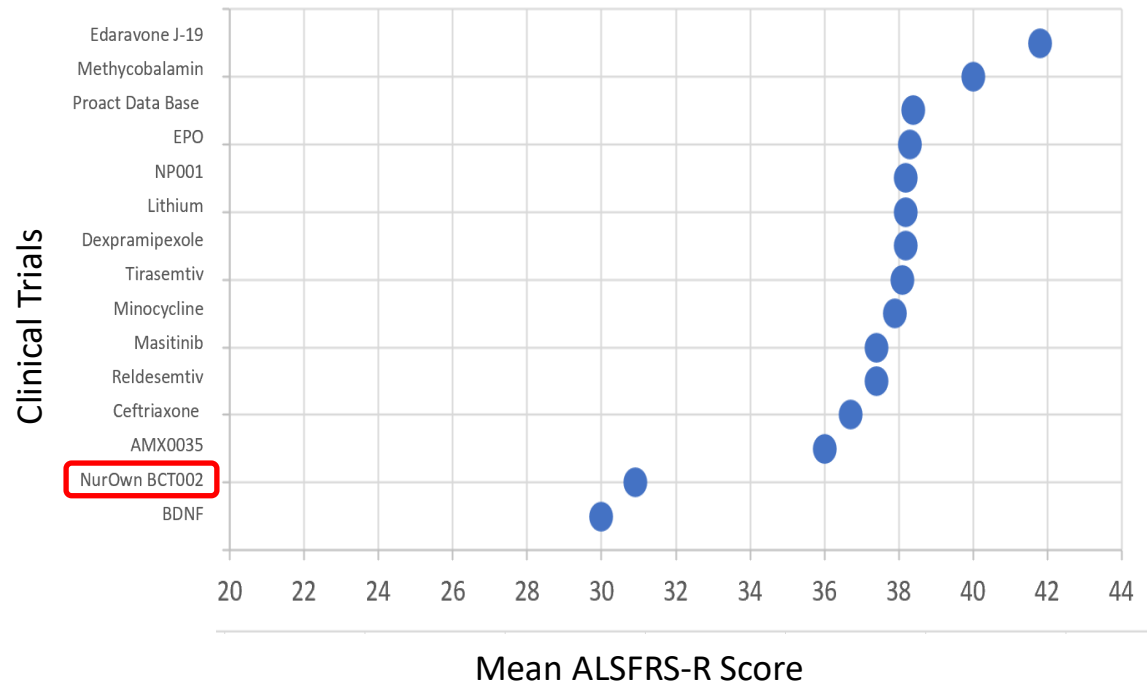
**AC Genotype:**  
**p=0.011**



■ Responder ■ Non-Resp

**Note:**  
 C/C Genotype has sparse sample  
  
 A/C, A/A Genotypes have a treatment imbalance

# BCT-002 included participants with advanced ALS, ALSFRS-R floor effect observed in this trial $\text{Baseline ALSFRS-R} \leq 25$



## % participants with ALSFRS-R item=0 at baseline

	Baseline ALSFRS-R $\leq 25$			Average
	Item 1	Item 2	Item 3	
<b>Bulbar</b>	10%	3%	3%	5%
<b>Fine Motor</b>	42%	42%	35%	40%
<b>Gross Motor</b>	19%	10%	74%	34%
<b>Respiratory</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%

- Inability to measure progression in participants may result in misclassification of response
- Analysis focused on baseline  $\text{ALSFRS-R} > 25$  minimizes the impact of the floor effect and leverages high percentage of data from trial.

# NurOwn subgroup with the A/C genotype responded better to NurOwn treatment

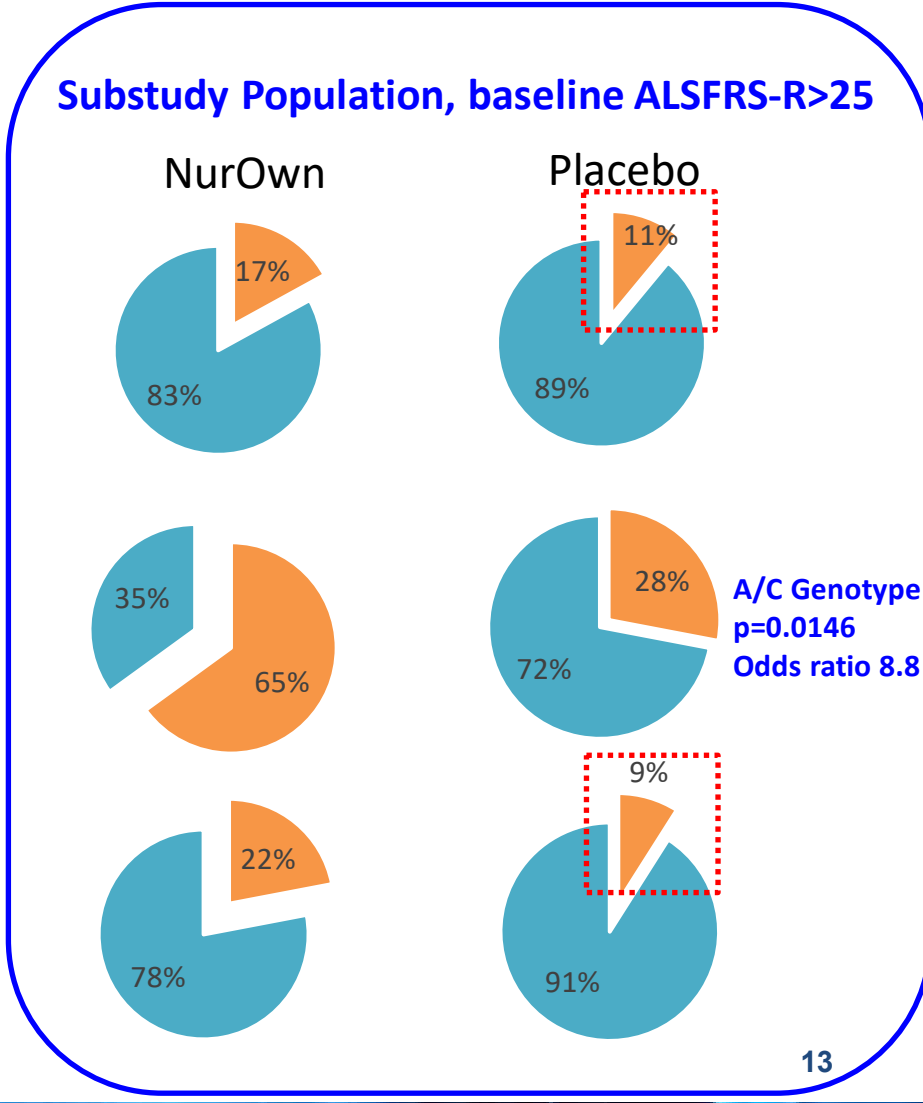
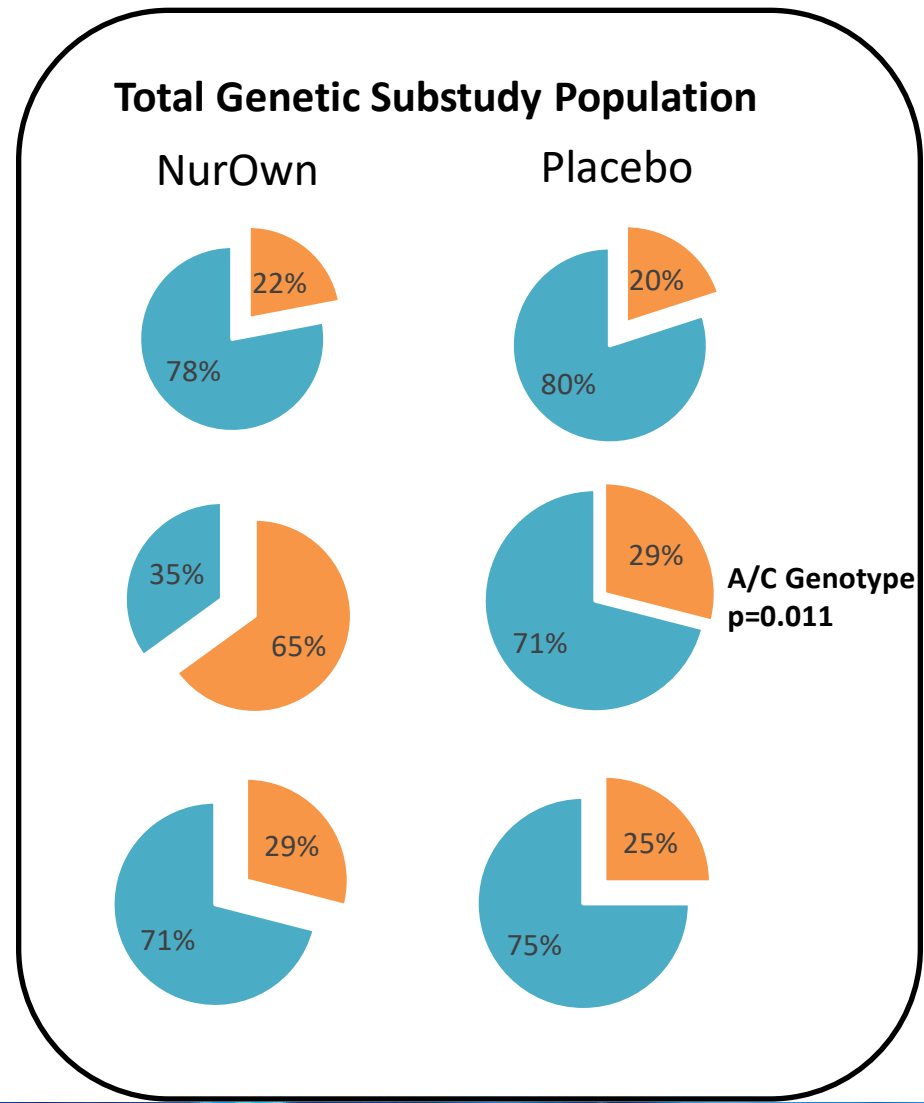
■ Responder ■ Non-Resp

124 participants (63 NurOwn, 61 Placebo) consented for Genetic Substudy:  
**98 Participants (49 NurOwn, 49 Placebo) with Baseline ALSFRS-R >25**

**Genotype C/C n= all → n=ALSFRS-R >25**  
**NurOwn:** n=9 → n=6  
**Placebo:** n= 10 → n=9  
 15% of genetic sub-study

**Genotype A/C n= all → n=ALSFRS-R >25**  
**NurOwn:** n=23 → n=20  
**Placebo:** n=35 → n=29  
 ~50% of the genetic sub-study

**Genotype A/A n= all → n=ALSFRS-R >25**  
**NurOwn:** n=31 → n=23  
**Placebo:** n=16 → n=11  
 ~35% of the genetic sub-study



# UNC13A Genotype may influence the response to NurOwn therapy

**This is one of the first ALS trials to prospectively invoke pharmacogenomic analysis of clinical outcome**

**There appear to be more participants with treatment response with the A/C Genotype**

- Primary Endpoint: UNC13A Carriers, particularly Genotype AC, treated with NurOwn had a significantly higher response compared to Placebo (A/C Genotype, 65% NurOwn vs. 29% Placebo,  $p=.011$ )

**Ongoing in-vitro research will evaluate the MOA of NurOwn in the different UNC13A genotypes**

**These results offer great promise for the development of future treatments for ALS, in addition to accumulating evidence for the effectiveness of NurOwn**

**Some Genotypes are sparsely represented, and hypotheses generated should be confirmed**

# Manufacturing Sites

Confidential- not for external distribution



**City of Hope Center for Biomedicine & Genetics**



**Dana-Farber Harvard Cancer Center  
Cell Manipulation Core**

# Treatment Centers



# Funding

